

What is claimed is:

1. A shipping container, comprising:  
an enclosure for receiving at least one product;  
a sensor on the enclosure capable of detecting a condition;  
a server on the enclosure communicating with the sensor; and  
means for enabling communications between the server and a remote location.
2. The shipping container of claim 1, wherein the sensor is an environmental sensor.
3. The shipping container of claim 1, wherein the sensor detects tampering with the enclosure.
4. The shipping container of claim 1, wherein the sensor is a location sensor.
5. The shipping container of claim 1, wherein the sensor is a camera.
6. The shipping container of claim 1, wherein the enclosure is a gas turbine engine enclosure.
7. The shipping container of claim 1, further including a conductive grid operatively associated with an interior surface of the enclosure and a grid sensor monitoring an electrical parameter of the grid, the grid sensor communicatively coupled to the server.
8. The shipping container of claim 7, wherein the grid sensor is resistance sensor.
9. The shipping container of claim 1, wherein the server hosts a web page.

10. A method of monitoring a shipping container, comprising the steps of:  
providing a shipping container, said shipping container including an enclosure for receiving at least one product, a sensor on the enclosure, a server on the enclosure communicating with the sensor, and means for enabling communications between the server and a remote location;

detecting a condition with the sensor during transit between an origin and a destination;

communicating between the server and the remote location in response to the condition, either during the transit or at the destination; and

determining whether the condition is an unacceptable condition.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said detecting step comprises detecting an environmental condition.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said detecting step detects tampering with the enclosure.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the detecting step detects a location.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the sensor is a camera.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the container is a gas turbine engine container.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the server initiates said communicating step.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the remote location initiates said communicating step.

18. A method of facilitating shipment of a container from an origin to a destination, comprising the steps of:

providing a shipping container, said shipping container including an enclosure for receiving at least one product, a server on the enclosure, and means for enabling communications between the server and a remote location;

supplying the server, before transit between the origin and the destination, with information related to the at least one product;

communicating between the server and the remote location, in response to the information, either during transit between the origin and the destination or at the destination; and

determining, in response to the information, how to handle the shipping container.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the shipping container includes a sensor, and the method further comprises a step of detecting a condition with the sensor during transit, the determining step determining how to handle the shipping container in response to the information or the condition.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the server initiates the communicating step.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the remote location initiates the communicating step.

22. The method of claim 18, further including the steps of providing a conductive grid within the enclosure, monitoring an electrical parameter of the conductive grid, and actuating an alarm if the electrical parameter changes.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the electrical parameter is resistance.

24. A shipping container for detecting conditions of other shipping containers, comprising;

an enclosure;

a sensor on the enclosure for detecting conditions of the other shipping containers;

a server on the enclosure communicating with the sensor; and

means for enabling communication between the server and a remote location.

25. The shipping container of claim 24, wherein the sensor is selected from the group of sensors consisting of video sensors, environmental sensors, chemical sensors, radiological sensors, location sensors, acceleration sensors, smoke sensors, and tampering sensors.

26. The shipping container of claim 24, wherein the server hosts a webpage and communicates wirelessly with the remote location by way of the Internet.

27. The shipping container of claim 24, further including a conductive grid operatively associated with an interior surface of the enclosure and a sensor adapted to measure the electrical resistance of the grid, the sensor communicating with the server.

28. A shipping container, comprising:
- an enclosure for receiving at least one product;
  - a conductive grid operatively associated with the enclosure;
  - a power source connected to the conductive grid and adapted to energize the conductive grid;
  - a sensor on the enclosure adapted to monitor a condition associated with the conductive grid; and
  - a server on the enclosure adapted to communicate with the sensor and a location remote from the enclosure.
29. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the conductive grid is metallic mesh mounted on an interior surface of the enclosure.
30. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the conductive grid is embedded in an interior surface of the enclosure.
31. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the conductive grid is painted on an interior surface of the enclosure.
32. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the conductive grid includes a first insulating layer, a metallic paint layer over the first insulating layer, and a second insulating layer over the metallic paint layer.
33. The shipping container of claim 28, further including a refrigeration unit.

34. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the sensor monitors electrical resistance within the grid.

35. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the server wirelessly communicates with the sensor and the remote location.

36. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the server communicates with the remote location by way of the Internet.

37. The shipping container of claim 28, further including a second sensor within the enclosure and adapted to monitor a parameter associated with the product.

38. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the second sensor communicates wirelessly with a radio-frequency identification tag associated with the product.

39. The shipping container of claim 28, wherein the server hosts a web page.

40. A method of monitoring a shipping container, comprising:  
energizing a conductive grid provided within an enclosure;  
sensing a condition associated with the conductive grid;  
communicating the sensed condition to a server associated with the enclosure; and  
transmitting the sensed condition from the server to a remote location.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the sensing step monitors electrical resistance within the conductive grid.

42. The method of claim 40, further including the step of attaching the conductive grid to an inner surface of the enclosure.

43. The method of claim 40, further including the step of painting the conductive grid onto an inner surface of the enclosure.

44. The method of claim 40, further including the step of embedding the conductive grid in an inner surface of the enclosure.

45. The method of claim 40, wherein the communicating step is performed wirelessly.

46. The method of claim 40, wherein the transmitting step is performed wirelessly.

47. The method of claim 40, wherein the transmitting step is performed wirelessly using the Internet.

48. The method of claim 40, further including the step of detecting an intrusion into the enclosure when the sensed condition changes.

49. The method of claim 40, further including the step of actuating an alarm when an intrusion is detected.

50. A system for detecting an intrusion into a shipping container, comprising:  
an enclosure adapted to receive at least one product;  
a conductive grid operatively associated with the enclosure;  
a power source connected to the conductive grid and adapted to energize the conductive grid;  
a sensor on the enclosure adapted to monitor a condition associated with the conductive grid;  
a server on the enclosure adapted to communicate with the sensor and generate a wireless system about the enclosure; and  
a remote computing device adapted to wirelessly communicate with the server by way of the Internet.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein the server hosts a website.

52. The system of claim 50, wherein the conductive grid is attached to an interior surface of the enclosure.

53. The system of claim 50, wherein the conductive grid is painted onto an interior surface of the enclosure.

54. The system of claim 50, wherein the conductive grid is embedded in an interior surface of the enclosure.

55. The system of claim 50, wherein the sensor is an electrical resistance monitor.

56. The system of claim 50, further including a second sensor within the enclosure and adapted to monitor a parameter associated with the product.